

## Message Text

SECRET

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44

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-04 AID-20 PM-07 NSC-07 SP-03 SS-20

RSC-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 L-03 OMB-01 PRS-01 PA-04

USIA-15 DRC-01 H-03 /117 W

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R 121240Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

SECSTATE WASHDC 7483

S E C R E T JIDDA 3345

E.O. 11652: GDS

SUBJECT: SAUDIS WILL NOT SUPPORT UNIVERSITY OF BEIRUT

REF: (A) JIDDA 1891; (B) STATE 78665

1. IN THE COURSE OF ANOTHER CONVERSATION, SAYYID OMAR SAQQAF, MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, RAISED WITH AMBASSADOR AKINS BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE THE FINANCIAL STRAITS OF THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF BEIRUT. HE IS A GRADUATE OF THE UNIVERSITY AND FEELS WARMLY TOWARD IT. RECENTLY HE SAID HE CONTRIBUTED \$1000. HE SAID IT WAS QUITE CLEAR TO HIM THAT A SMALL MINORITY WAS TRYING TO DESTROY THE UNIVERSITY; THAT THEY HAD A GOOD CHANCE OF DOING SO AND THAT THIS WOULD BE A "TRAGEDY FOR THE ARABS."

2. WHEN THE AMBASSADOR ASKED IF SAUDI ARABIA MIGHT NOT BE ABLE, AS A GOVERNMENT, TO HELP THE UNIVERSITY HE SAID THAT THERE WOULD BE NO CHANCE WHATSOEVER. THE KING, HE SAID, HAD DISCUSSED THE STUDENT RIOTS REPEATEDLY IN THE LAST FEW WEEKS AND HAS ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS SAID THAT THE UNIVERSITY IS MISNAMED. IT SHOULD NOT BE CALLED THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY BUT THE "COMMUNIST UNIVERSITY OF BEIRUT."

3. THE SAUDIS HAVE A CURIOUS ATTITUDE TOWARD FOREIGN AID. THEY ARE PAYING SUBSTANTIAL SUBSIDIES TO JORDAN, SYRIA

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AND EGYPT. THEY HAVE JUST GIVEN 50 MILLION DOLLARS FOR WORLD

FOOD PROGRAM, BUT WHEN IT COMES TO AIDING "RADICALS" THERE SEEMS TO BE ONLY HOSTILITY. BECAUSE OF THE KING'S DISLIKE OF SOME OF THE PALESTINIAN LEADERS, SAUDI CONTRIBUTION TO UNRWA WAS RAISED FROM \$150,000 TO ONLY \$600,000, WHEN THE NEED WAS FAR GREATER AND SAUDI ARABIA'S ABILITY TO PAY WAS OBVIOUSLY HIGHER.

4. WE DO NOT INTEND TO RAISE THE MATTER OF ASSISTANCE TO AUB AGAIN WITH THE SAUDIS UNLESS THE DEPARTMENT OR EMBASSY BEIRUT HAS SOME SPECIFIC PROJECT IN MIND. THE SAUDIS MIGHT BE WILLING TO DO SOMETHING TO SAVE THE ENGINEERING OR MEDICAL SCHOOL, BUT EVEN THIS SEEMS UNLIKELY TODAY.  
BIRD

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** UNIVERSITIES, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE, STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 12 JUN 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** izenbei0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SAUDIS WILL NOT SUPPORT UNIVERSITY OF BEIRUT  
**TAGS:** PFOR, EAIID, SA, AMERICAN UNIV OF BEIRUT, (SAQQAF, OMAR)  
**To:** BEIRUT STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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